

SPiRiT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The Democratic Protest, the Platform of the Party.

From the Charleston Courier. The great question at issue is the platform of the Democratic party in the coming Presidential election. That of the Republican party is well ascertained. About this there is no doubt or cavil. This boldly asserts the overthrow of the accustomed and constitutional Governments in the Southern States, and the erection in their place of pretended Governments, under the name of negro rule, and which owe their origin and existence to the bayonet and to force.

The question involved is the very existence of the Constitution itself, and of chartered liberty. Nor can this issue be disguised or evaded! It is the only point of contest. If the present false and spurious Governments of the South are accepted, then there is no essential point of difference between the two parties. Both will then have accepted the results of radical usurpation and misrule; and on this point both will be in unison. They have accepted the same platform. The South will then indeed have been turned over, in spite of her remonstrance and appeal, to the mercy of her subjugators and to the yoke now about her neck.

It is therefore in this crisis as an auspice of hope that we recur to the protest of the Democratic members of Congress against the admitted bills under which these Southern Commonwealths are sought to be bereft of their Statehood and deprived of their inherent rights to representation in the common country and to the control of their internal affairs.

The Democratic members of Congress are the true and authorized exponents of Democratic principles and policy. And this for the simple reason that they are the only representatives before the country of a Democratic constituency. They alone, amid the storm of passion and prejudice which has swept over the land, hold their seats by virtue of Democratic votes. There are, therefore, the real representatives of the popular will of their respective districts, and of the rank and file of the Democratic sentiment of the land.

In view both of the dangers which imperil, and the importance of a clear exposition of the principles which are now at stake, and which demand a positive solution at the hands of the American people, this protest becomes at once a matter of interest and importance. It represents the opinions of the whole of the Democratic party in Congress, without exception. It is therefore authoritative. The National Convention cannot disregard its utterances, without surrendering the vital and distinctive opinions of the organization.

The moment the so-called members from Arkansas, the first presented from the illegal Governments in the South appeared, the forty-four Democratic Representatives in the House with one voice protested upon the record against their admission. They would not even by silence admit the validity of their election, or of their commission. They spread their objections upon the record.

Nor did they leave in doubt the grounds upon which these objections rested. It was, among other things, that the Supreme Court of the United States, the judicial authority of the country, had held that "Reconstruction acts which had created the military governments, of which these delegates were the offspring, to be unconstitutional, the public declaration of which fact was avoided only by the extraordinary and strange device of this Congress in snatching jurisdiction from the court in the McCrady case, when such a public decision was to be made."

We need not go further. It is sufficient that the supreme judiciary holds that the "bayonet made and Congress imposed Constitutions are of no weight, authority, or sanction." And that upon this decision made, although as yet withheld by the usurpations of the radical party, the Democratic members of Congress have planted their faith and organization.

They stand proudly, and with the courage of a true cause and conviction, protesting in behalf of the free people of the North, West, and South, against the right of a military oligarchy, to impose upon the now enslaved States of the South, other than the constitutional taxes, customs, and laws.

In their own eloquent words, "we protest against going into the now proposed copartnership of military dictators and negroes, in the administration of the Government; we demand in the name of the fathers of the Constitution, and for the sake of posterity, not its reconstruction, but the restoration of that sacred instrument, which has been to us all a pillar of fire from 1787 to its present overthrow."

The Democratic members of Congress have thus laid down the platform and principles of the party in its ensuing contest. Can the National Convention ignore these and live?

The Oregon Election.

From the Portland Oregonian. The opponents of Grant in this State assume that the result of our election indicates a certain defeat of the Union Republican party throughout the country this fall. It is perhaps but natural that they should talk in this wise and endeavor to magnify the importance of the little victory they have won in Oregon. But all candid people will admit that the election in this State is no test of the result elsewhere. There are reasons for this which are perfectly obvious, and which our friends in other States, as well as here, ought to be fully acquainted with.

As the two parties were evenly balanced at our last election, and our opponents had been increasing in numbers for some time in more rapid proportion than ourselves, (owing to the situation and surroundings of the State, and to the fact that large numbers of Rebel refugees had for some time been drifting in this direction), it would have been surprising if the Union party had been able to fully maintain its ground. For the last four years a population has been steadily flocking into Oregon from the so-called border States of the West, and from the Territories adjacent to us on the east and north. This population has been, in large part, composed of those whom the civil commotions forced to leave their former places of residence. They were Rebels or Rebel sympathizers, and of course all of them thorough-going "Democrats."

Those who were not active Rebels were of the voting, unsectarian class who find it irksome to live in older communities, and who naturally vote the Democratic ticket. The tendency of these classes of population has been for several years in this direction, and the increased Democratic vote shows that they have come in large numbers during the last two years. The returns show that the Union vote throughout the State is as large as it was in the last election. There is a trifling reduction in some counties, but a proportionate gain in others. No doubt a few names might be found here and there who have changed from the Union to the Democratic side during the past two years; but the number is very inconsiderable. They are too small a fraction to account for the general

result. There have also been some changes in our favor—probably fully as many as there have been against us. But the result has not depended to any considerable extent on these changes. The returns show an increased vote in the State, and prove conclusively that this increase has been in favor of the Democratic party. This is the reason why that party has obtained upwards of one thousand majority in this election.

We have before taken occasion to show that the Union party never had anything like the majority in Oregon which the sections of 1852 and 1854 indicated. On these occasions the large Union majorities were due to the fact that the Democrats did not come out to vote. Governor Gibbs, in 1852, received less than half the number of votes which had been thrown in the Presidential election of 1850; yet he was elected by over 3000 majority. Since the war, the Copperheads who were "holed up" have been coming out. Men voted this year who had not voted since 1850. At any time since 1852 the Democratic party in this State would have been able to press this Union party very hard, simply by getting to work and coming out in full force at the elections. But we would have been able to maintain our ground had it not been for the large accessions to the Democratic vote from the classes before described.

This election, therefore, is no indication of the result elsewhere. Most of the other States have little or none of this roving, unsettled population. The people who participated in the great war are as firm and determined as ever to maintain their principles, and work out the results they have been striving and fighting for. No person of intelligence and candor will mistake the result of our election for an indication that the Union party will meet with a national defeat. We have a large vote in this State as we had two years ago, and the Democratic triumph is due to the increased vote which that party has received from the classes who have been drifting in this direction for several years. They have been gaining on us in this way since 1854, reducing our majority in every election; and this time they have outvoted us. Let none of our friends be deceived by this result into a belief or fear that a Democratic triumph in Oregon under these circumstances portends the defeat of Grant and Colfax.

A Frank Confession.

From the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser. "If we can carry the election it makes little difference on what platform or with what candidates. It is expedient to pick our demands in so far as possible Republicanism as an excuse for deserting their party. A party in power can afford to do things which a party out of power cannot attempt without ruin."

"If we can carry this election, we shall experience no difficulty in continuing our reasonable policy. Even the Republican party will look at public questions through very different eyes at a second Presidential election. It behooves us to have 'emotions' enough to take hold of things by the right end."—N. Y. World.

In the above language, our contemporary reveals the sole motive which actuates the Democratic party. "If we can carry the election, it makes little difference on what platform, or with what candidates." Principles are out of the question. Success we aim at, and to achieve it let us resort to any means fair or foul; so says the metropolitan organ of the great unwashed, and it but reiterates their sentiments. In their grab for spoils, the Democratic leaders are willing to jump forward, or jump backward, to achieve success. They are gathering here from near and far, not to protest against wrong and injustice, not to assert and maintain principles, not to rescue the Government from those they style "revolutionary radicals," but they come simply in order to elect a President who will feed them at the public crib, and permit them to run their arms into the public treasury. "If we can carry the election, it makes little difference on what platform, or with what candidates." These Democratic leaders are willing to nominate Pendleton, who opposed the war, believes that the negro is a brute, and advocates the payment of the public debt in greenbacks, or they are willing to nominate Chase, who supported the war, believes that the negro is a man and a brother, and who advocates the payment of the public debt in accordance with the terms agreed upon! And this is modern Democracy!

A Political Barkis.

From the N. Y. Evening Post. The World says:—"If we can carry the election, it makes little difference on what platform or with what candidates."

The World reminds us of the preacher who, seeking an appointment in a pro-slavery church, in the old slavery times, promised that in his sermons he would carefully avoid all allusions to either politics or religion.

The World is like Barkis, a very willing creature. It will support anything or anybody. It assured the public a few weeks ago that there was not the least difference between Pendleton and Chase, and it appears to be ready now to follow any leader, on any road, under any flag, and against anybody, to victory.

Perhaps victory does not lie in that direction. The World has been a good deal scolded at by radical Democratic journals, lately, because it gave some signs of sound statesmanship and political principle. The Washington Intelligence called it a spy; the Day Book spoke of it as a snake in the grass; the Georgia Constitutionalist denounced what it called the World's "treachery and deceit"; and the Cincinnati Enquirer assured its public "the views of the World in regard to negro suffrage are not shared by any other Democratic paper, or by any other Democrat, East or West, to our knowledge."

Let the wrath of these zealots cease. The World, which has been eating humble-pie for two or three weeks, bolts its last huge mouthful this morning, and has really earned forgiveness.

Universal Nigger Suffrage—The Great Issue of the Campaign.

From the N. Y. Herald.

Many middle-headed newspapers argue that the present quiet settlement of the Southern States under military rule determines and closes the great point of nigger suffrage, and that this is not an open issue of the present campaign. We pronounce this a fallacy, an impudent pretense, a big lie and a snare. There is no other issue but this, and the whole canvass turns purely and simply upon this point of the political status of the nigger in the Southern States and the right of the States themselves to regulate that status. Universal nigger suffrage and the correlative oppression of the white man are the points that divide the parties and the people. All Democrats—by which we mean all men who are in sympathy with those Democratic principles that are the basis of our Government—are on the one side, and all who in their hearts hate Democracy and popular liberty, who instinctively oppose the supremacy of the people in the Government, are on the other; and these count upon exercising a control against the people, keeping the people down and themselves in office by the manufacture of a bogus vote to be made from the brutal

masses of niggers that were slaves but a short time since.

Just at the close of the war the Congress of the United States laid down a basis of settlement for this great issue—a basis that received the immediate assent of nearly the whole loyal people. This was the fourteenth Constitutional amendment, which recognized that States alone have the right to regulate suffrage, and conceded that right to States, affixing the penalty that if any State ruled out any class or race by a disproportionate representation in Congress. This was a settlement of the point in accordance with the history and law of the division of power between the States and the general Government, in accordance with the will of the Northern people and satisfactory to the South. But another Congress, unwilling to see our difficulties so easily put out of the way—unwilling to lose the pretext for rearranging the elements of political power so as to give them continued domination—made a reconstruction law utterly subverting that amendment, violating that sacred guarantee of the nation's rights, law barbarous and tyrannical in its principle and purpose, and not more in conflict with the Constitutional amendment than its violation of the whole spirit of our laws, of the laws of society, and the laws of God Almighty. This brutal statute is now the code by which uniformed despots govern the South. 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